

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-36 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1 and 14. In the Office Action, claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Forry et al. Forry et al. is directed to printing indicia onto tissue paper using an ink composition. In the Office Action, the Examiner took the position that ink may be considered a chemical additive as defined in the claims.

In response, claims 1 and 14 have now been amended to require that the chemical additive comprise an anti-acne additive, an anti-microbial additive, an anti-fungal additive, an antiseptic additive, an antioxidant, a cosmetic astringent, a drug astringent, a deodorant, an external analgesics, a fragrance, a humectant, a moisturizing agent, an opacifier, a skin conditioning agent, a skin exfoliating agent, a skin protectant, a sunscreen, a strength agent, a debonder, a softener, or mixtures thereof. Since Forry et al. does not disclose applying a chemical additive to a tissue product as now defined in claims 1 and 14, Applicants submit that the claims patentably define over Forry et al.

In the Office Action, claims 1-29 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Nielsen et al. Nielsen et al. discloses a method for the spray application of additive compositions using compressed fluids as the spraying medium. In particular, an additive composition is admixed with a compressed fluid to form a liquid mixture in a closed pressurized system. The liquid mixture is sprayed by passing the mixture under pressure through an orifice of the spraying equipment to form a spray. The spray pressure is usually greater than about 500 psig, such as greater than about 1200 psig.

Claims 1 and 14, however, have been amended to state that the topical composition is “printed on” to the base sheet. As described in the present application, various advantages and benefits are obtained by printing a composition

onto a tissue product as opposed to spraying a composition onto a tissue product. For instance, printing a topical composition onto a base sheet in accordance with the present disclosure provides for better controls over flow rates and add-on levels in comparison to spray processes. Printing is also better suited to preventing over-application of the composition and can provide much better controls over placement of the composition onto the web. Thus, it is believed that claims 1 and 14 patentably define over Nielsen et al..

In the Office Action, claims 1-29 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ficke et al. in view of Johnson et al. Ficke et al. is directed toward a process for applying a chemical additive that includes depositing a chemical additive onto only a first side of a fibrous web. Then, by causing the first side of the fibrous web to contact a second side of the fibrous web, the chemical additive is partially transferred from the first side to the second side. Ficke et al. teaches that depositing the chemical additive only to the first side of the fibrous web may be accomplished by extrusion coating, spray coating, print coating, or any combination thereof.

In comparison to claims 1 and 14, however, Ficke et al. alone or in combination with Johnson et al. fails to disclose or suggest a tissue product in which a composition has been printed onto the sheet in the form of discrete droplets that have a diameter less than about 3 mm and wherein 75% of the composition by weight is located at substantially the surface of the sheet. In comparison, Ficke et al. teaches that once a chemical additive is applied to one side of the fibrous web, the chemical additive is partially transferred to the second side as the web is wound into a roll. As stated in col. 32, starting at line 26, Ficke et al. states that when the web is wound “shearing forces” exist between the first side and the second side that facilitate the transfer of the additive from the first side to the second side. As can be appreciated, these shearing forces cause the additive to flow in multiple directions. Thus, Ficke et al. teaches away from a

topical composition being on a sheet in the form of discrete droplets having a diameter of less than about 3 mm and wherein at least 75% of the composition by weight is located at substantially the surface of the sheet. Further, the disclosure of Johnson et al. would not in any way cure the deficiencies of Ficke et al. As such, Applicants submit that the claims patentably define over Ficke et al. either alone or in combination with Johnson et al.

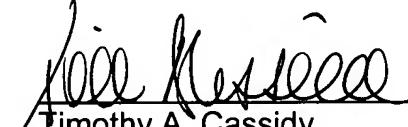
In the Office Action, the Examiner requested a new title and a new abstract, which are both provided with this Amendment.

In summary, Applicants submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this response, however, then Examiner Fortuna is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 5, 2006

Date